



# Pinckneyville First UMC

May 2025

## May BIRTHDAYS

May 2 Carol Thompson  
3 Dee Morgan  
5 Doug Wedeking  
7 Tom Garner  
Presley Marie Reeves  
10 Bill Roe  
11 Peyton Gregory  
15 Andrea Banach  
Rich Dulle  
16 Matthew Bigham  
Jon Gregory  
19 Ted Cunningham  
20 Dalton Pyatt  
24 Kelsey Bigham  
Mark Schneider  
28 Kay Elliott



*Congratulations everyone on your milestones! If your name was not included in our list, please inform the office so that we can update our records.*

## May Anniversaries

8 Dick and Penny Corn  
20 Brian and Dee Morgan  
26 Rich and Diana Dulle  
30 Larry and Lisa Wild



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6 p.m.** Start of New Member Class. 4-week class. All are invited to this class whether you're interested in joining our church or interested in Methodism in general. Call Leanne for more information.
- \* **May 7** – Finance Committee Meeting 9 a.m.
- \* **May 11** – Mother's Day
- \* **May 13** – Sunshine Women's Group will meet at the Grecian for a luncheon at 12:00. If you need a ride, call Darlene.
- \* **May 15** – Red Cross Blood Drive – 12 – 5 Methodist Church – Fellowship Hall.
- \* **May 15** – Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- \* **May 18** – Graduate Recognition – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, High School, and College

## ***Thoughts from Pastor Leanne***

Okay. I'll admit it. I'm a **"But First..."** kind of person.

As in: I will absolutely make my bed...**BUT FIRST**...I need to take my dogs out or scroll through my phone or...

I've found this attribute present in both my niece and nephew as well.

[Claire and Brooks in swimming pool]: "Please guys, get out of the water."

"Okay okay...**but first** we gotta do a triple-sideways-double-backflip-headstand-kick-headstand. Watch us, watch us!"

"But First" is all about questioning what comes next and then stalling.

So how many of us are stalling when it comes to fully pursuing a Christ-like existence?

Has Jesus come up to you saying, "Follow me," only to have you respond with "Definitely...BUT FIRST...."?

In this season of newness, life, and Springtime, what better opportunity is there for us to jump into a life fully committed to Jesus Christ?

And when it comes to fully living out a Christ-like existence = *What are we waiting for?*

- Getting our children's lives in perfect order?
- Retirement?
- Perfect health?
- Having that mole removed?
- Finding the exact pastor we like?
- Waiting to forgive and forget?



### **Let's see what Jesus has to say about us "But First" people:**

<sup>59</sup>*Jesus said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."*<sup>60</sup>*Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

Jesus wants your heart before anything else. Truly.

Now following Jesus and giving him your whole heart does not guarantee a cushy and stable life, always. In fact, a life with Jesus might just make you a bit uncomfortable from time to time as Jesus stretches your understanding of all that you're capable of!

My friends, there is no perfect time to become a fully invested Christian.

There's no perfect time to become a BETTER Christian.

Jesus wants you...now...just as you are.

Let's spend the upcoming month looking at our faith lives...our spiritual disciplines and becoming people of faith who don't have a "BUT FIRST"...

Let's instead be people of faith who strive to say, "But why NOT *now*?"

Faithfully,

***Pastor Leanne***

## Calling all Graduates

We would like to recognize all of the graduates related to our church but we need some information! If you have a child or grandchild, or know of someone related to our church that is graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, High School, or College, please fill out the form and put it in the offering plate or turn in on the secretary's desk. Or call and leave a message on the church phone (618-357-6111) with the following information:

Graduate's name \_\_\_\_\_

Graduating from (8<sup>th</sup> grade, H.S. or college)  
\_\_\_\_\_

From which school  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to our church  
(member; daughter of \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_; grandson of \_\_\_\_; etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would they possibly be able to attend church on our recognition Sunday of May 18?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## April Financial Report

<b>April Giving</b>	<b>\$21,237.72</b>
<b>April Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$18,357.50</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 2,880.22</b>

<b>January—April 2025</b>	
<b>Giving</b>	<b>\$59,979.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$62,007.18</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>- \$2,028.93</b>

**All bills are paid and apportionments are up to date. Thank you for your generous support!**

**We also had a donation from the Caring & Sharing Thrift Store that was deposited to support the Summer Lunch Meat/Cheese/Bread Expenses of \$7500 which is not included in these totals.**

**Sunshine Women's Group** will be accepting donations of wipes and diapers for infants, from newborn to toddler, for Mother's Day. Please fill out a form with a special envelope and place in the basket on the table outside the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to Sunshine Women's Group. Or bring a pack or two of diapers or wipes and place on the table in the East Hallway.

## SUMMER LUNCH SIGN UP

The Methodist Church will be packing up lunches on Wednesdays again this summer. The lunch program will begin on Monday, June 2. If you would be able to help pack or deliver lunches, please sign up on the table outside the sanctuary.

For our Wednesday lunches, we ask for donations of \* Juice pouches, \* pudding cups, and \* cheese/peanut butter crackers. The Caring & Sharing Thrift Store provides money to reimburse us for grocery expenses of meat/bread/cheese that we purchase for all the churches.

*This is truly a community project!*

# History of Hymns: "Morning Has Broken"

"Morning Has Broken"

written by Eleanor Farjeon—*The United Methodist Hymnal*, No. 145

*Morning has broken  
Like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them springing  
Fresh from the Word!*

Sometimes a melody provides the impetus for a hymn text. Percy Dearmer, editor of *Songs of Praise* (1931), requested a thanksgiving text from the poet Eleanor Farjeon to the lilting Gaelic tune BUNESSAN.

"Morning has broken" appeared first in the USA in the Presbyterian *Hymnbook* (1955), but it was not until Cat Stevens (now Yusuf Islam) sang it on his triple platinum album *Teaser and the Firecat* in 1971 that the song became well known and, as a result, has been included in most hymnals since that time. This is a rare, though not unique, example of a Christian hymn receiving acclaim through the popular media.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965) was born in Westminster, London, England. She was the daughter of a novelist and had around 80 works to her credit including *Nursery Rhymes of London Town* and *The Glass Slipper*. Farjeon received several awards for her literary efforts including the Carnegie Medal, the Hans Christian Andersen International Medal, and the Regina Medal.

*UM Hymnal* editor Carlton Young notes that the "text effectively links and expresses the creation stories in Genesis 1 and John 1, and reminds us that each new day is a gift from God."

The morning sings in the sounds of the blackbird—an echo of the "Word" or the voice of the Incarnation itself.

The second stanza closes with a reference to God walking in Eden through the garden—"where his feet pass." This is an echo of Genesis 3:8: "And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day." There is, however, no hint in this idyllic account of the fall of humanity that follows in that verse.

The final stanza personalizes this experience. "Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning." We share in the freshness and possibility of the "one light Eden saw play." Our response is to "Praise with elation" for "God's re-creation of the new day."

It was first printed in Lachlan MacBean's *Songs and Hymns of the Gael* (1888). The *Revised Church Hymnary* (1927) and the *Appendix* (1936) to the *Irish Church Hymnal* (1919) paired the tune with the nativity text, "Child in the manger" by the Scottish poet Mary MacDonald (1789–1872), who lived on the Isle of Mull and was born there near the village of Bunessan for which the tune is named.

At first glance, this "Morning has broken" may seem naïve in our current polluted environment of waning fresh water supplies, greenhouse gases and smog. Unlike the earlier days of the 20th century when Farjeon penned this poem, we now know that the earth's resources are limited and its beauty is ours to preserve and foster. Yet, we all dream for a day when the beauty of the earth may be restored and that the rising of the morning sun will be a symbol of hope where all will share in the earth's abundance.

Source: Discipleship Ministries, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>  
Dr. Hawn is professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology.